



Weekly Newsletter

13th February 2026

Making learning a lifelong adventure

Our values focus for this half-term is **What three gifts?**

Dear Parents/Carers

The February half-term is upon us. Thank you to all those who have contributed to the life of the school over the course of this half-term, by supporting the children in their learning and development. A particular thank you to those who have attended or volunteered and helped out in various ways at activities in school. Thank you to the FoHBS leads and volunteers who have run film nights and the annual quiz night this half-term. I was sorry not to be able to attend the Quiz Night last week and gather it was another HUGE success, with all the profits benefitting the school.

During the course of the half-term break, contractors will be on site installing a new shelter on the edge of the school field to provide shade during the summer months and at sporting events. This has been paid for in its entirety by FoHBS fundraising and will particularly enhance our provision. It would not have been possible without the fundraising efforts our school community. Thank you!

We have ended the week with the House Ambassadors' *Break the Rule Day* in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Stroke Association and ZSL. Throughout the day, children have not worn the right uniform, enjoyed some pretty funky hairstyles and flaunted one or two *good sitting* and other class rules! The day has raised a magnificent £1,400 so far and those who have not had an opportunity to do so can still pay for their broken rules via these JustGiving links: [MND](#) [Stroke](#) [ZSL](#)

Be Safe Week

This week has been our annual *Be Safe Week* and some of the children's usual lessons and activities have been replaced with special visits, visitors or workshops with a focus on understanding risks and how to keep ourselves safe. This is such an important subject and the children have engaged really well with the subject matter and issues they have been exploring.

This has included a focus on safeguarding, using NSPCC materials for an assembly to Years 1 to 6 and in class with our Reception children ([What's in your pants belongs only to you...](#)), work on digital safety (with another assembly led by our pupil Digital Leaders), further cyber safety work with a session for parents and for Year 5 and 6 pupils, led by Hertfordshire Police, local police constables, visiting Year 2, trips to Hazard Alley for Years 5 and 6, Hygiene workshops for Years 1 and 2, first aid training in Years 3 and 4 and road safety work on local roads in Reception to Years 2. Pictures of some of the activities are shown overleaf.

More information on staying safe in both the real and digital realms can be found on the [Staying Safe](#) page of our website, where there are also links to other sources of advice and support, including a new gov.uk site all about digital safety, [Kids Online Safety](#).

Children's Mental Health Week

This week is also designated *Children's Mental Health Week* and this year's theme is ***This is My Place*** encouraging children to develop a sense of belonging. Due to this week also being the High Beeches *Be Safe Week*, we will be celebrating *Children's Mental Health Week* the first week back after half term.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors will be leading an assembly and launching a poster competition. There will also be an opportunity on Friday 27th February for children to wear something they feel comfy in, whether that is pyjamas, a onesie, school uniform or something else.

In the meantime, please follow these links for [ideas and activities](#) to support your child's mental health and [free parent workshops](#) on supporting children's emotional wellbeing.

We look forward to seeing everyone again when we return on Monday 23 February. Wishing all our staff, pupils and their families a very pleasant half-term break.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

• Reception Chestnut Class	Jackson	For careful formation of his letters and wonderful finger spaces when writing.
• Reception Oak Class	Eliza	For being a super role model to the class by always following the instructions :)
• Year 1 Cedar Class	Zack	For practising his letters at home and improving his pencil grip.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Elliot	For improving his pencil grip and letter formation.
• Year 1 Elm Class	Ben	For really focussing on his handwriting, trying hard to form his letters correctly.
• Year 2 Hazel Class	Jack	For using great 'marking' skills in PE to intercept the ball.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Jack	For a brilliant half term. You have grown in confidence and always work hard in lessons.
• Year 2 Willow Class	Frankie	For her fantastic work in Maths on subtraction.
• Year 3 Birch Class	Xander	For making a greater effort with his handwriting and finger spaces to make sure that it is neat and easy to read.
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Hazel	For being so sensible and responsible when practising how to cross the road safely outside. We remembered to stop, look, listen and think!
• Year 3 Redwood Class	Ottolie	For making an effort and writing in detail for our history topic. Well done!
• Year 4 Maple Class	Evie	For trying hard to improve her written presentation. Well done!
• Year 4 Pine Class	Tom	For showing passion and using persuasive techniques when delivering a speech in English.
• Year 5 Ash Class	Felicity	For joining hand writing consistently and publishing her work neatly.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Hannah	For joining her handwriting beautifully and showing clear ascenders.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Jemima	For her excellent independent work during Maths.
• Year 5 Hawthorn Class	Omar	For producing a fantastic travel leaflet in English including a variety of persuasive features.
• Year 6 Rowan Class	Phoebe	For consistently using neat and joined handwriting across the curriculum
• Year 6 Sycamore Class	Mila	For working brilliantly with decimal in Maths
• PE Awards Infants	Joshua	For his brilliant writing of a persuasive travel leaflet.
• PE Awards Juniors	Izzy	For working so diligently in maths and building on prior learning to decode complex problems.
• PE Awards Juniors	Asher	For your exceptional handwriting and presentation in all subjects.
• PE Awards Juniors	Casper	For excellent bridge building.
• PE Awards Juniors	Harry	For excellent bridge building.
• PE Awards Juniors	Thaleia	For her effective use of dialogue to show character and accurate use of punctuation
• PE Awards Juniors	Thomas	For his powerful poster in art and taking his time to 'planet' out!
• PE Awards Juniors	Erin Morris	For exceptional levels of presentation in everything she does – Erin takes great pride across her learning tasks in all subjects.!
• PE Awards Juniors	Luke	For a highly persuasive poster which challenges people's stance on climate change. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Alberto	For good work on linking gymnastics skills, showing him to create a lovely, flowing routine with a partner.
• PE Awards Juniors	Edward	For good work on linking gymnastics skills, allowing him to create a lovely flowing routine with a partner. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Annabel	For a beautifully choreographed matching and contrasting routine with her partner. Well done!
• PE Awards Juniors	Meredith	For a beautifully choreographed matching and contrasting routine with her partner. Well done!

Sports Desk

Congratulations to our netball teams who this week played their first games of the season, against Crabtree Juniors at home, on Wednesday this week. The B Team won by an amazing 10-0. The A Team were well matched and managed to maintain the upper hand all the way through a tough game, with an early 3-0 lead, changing to 3-1, then 4-1, then 4-2, before eventually triumphing 5-2!

The football teams also participated in a much-anticipated local derby, meeting Grove Junior School away on Monday afternoon. Congratulations to the players for their perseverance. Both games were tough and the teams had to draw on a good deal of resilience, working hard to defend against ultimately stronger sides.

Community Matters

Please see attached flyer from Harpenden Town Council about their forthcoming film competition.

Supporting Families

Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online
www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
go to PARENTS - Live Talks page
All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership

Further Information and Reminders

School Lunches at High Beeches

Our school caterers, HCL, have informed us of their new prices for the 2026/2027 financial year. They are keenly aware of cost of living pressures on working families and work really hard to keep these rises to a minimum, by constantly looking for efficiencies in their purchasing, staffing model and back office functions, whilst maintaining a focus on high quality, sustainable and locally sourced ingredients.

However, this is made particularly challenging by the context of the catering and hospitality industry, which has experienced above-average inflation for food ingredients in recent years and very significant increases in employee costs because of changes in employers' national insurance rates and quite laudable rises in the National Living Wage. In the period from 2015 to 2025, food inflation was over 40% (CPI, ONS) and wage inflation for the company is running at 100% for same time period.

As a result, prices for Junior meals (those in Years 3 to 6) will rise from £3.50 per meal to £3.62 from 13 April 2026. This represents an increase of 3.4%. Any parents who would like to make changes to their child's pattern of school meals should contact the office by 13th March to allow the relevant admin to be actioned.

Holiday Clubs running in school over half term

- ✓ [Apex Sports](#) – Sports Activities with Mr George – 16th, 17th, 18th Feb
- ✓ [Baking Buddies](#) – Baking with Mrs Shafer – 18th, 19th, 20th Feb
- ✓ [Sewing Club](#) – Sewing with Mrs Ward – 20th Feb

Attendance

Congratulations to Oak and Pine classes who have the best attendance this week, with 98.3 and 100% attendance. Do take a look at our [new attendance page](#) for information on how to notify us of absence.

Lunchtime Helpers Spring term 2026

We desperately need helpers!

We are so grateful for the group of volunteers who regularly help in the dining room at lunchtimes. This helps things to run smoothly and provides parents with a real insight into the life of the school! Please find the link below for the lunchtime helpers sign up for the Spring term. If anyone who hasn't helped before would like to, you would be more than welcome and Ms Berhili would be more than happy to guide you through everything. [Sign-up here.](#)

Diary Dates *New or amended events*

Monday 23 February 2026
Thursday 26 February 2026
Thursday 26 February, 3pm
& Friday 27 February 2026, 8:45am
Thursday 5 March 2025
Monday 9 March 2026
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Thursday 12 March, 3pm
& Friday 13 March 2026, 8:45am
Tuesday 17 March 2026, 6pm
Saturday 21 March 2026
Thursday 19 March, 3pm
& Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am
Thursday 19 March, 3pm
& Friday 20 March 2026, 8:45am
Monday 23 March 2026
Tuesday 24 March 2026
24 and 26 March 2026, 3:45 to 7pm
Wednesday 25 March 2026
Thursday 26 March 2026
Friday 27 March 2026, 2pm
Thurs/Fri 23rd -24th April 2026
Friday 15th May 2026
Wednesday 20 May – 22 May
Thursday 4 June
Tuesday 9 June 2026
Thursday 11th June 2026
Monday 29th June 2026
Monday 6 July 2026

Y2 Visit to The Monument, London
Reception to Year 5 parent consultations Arbor booking open.
Year 1 Open Classrooms
World Book Day – dress as a character or for your hobby
Year 5 Science Workshop at Abbotshill School
Year 5 Mayan Workshop
Year 3 Open Classrooms
Spring Music Evening – instrumentalist concert
FoHBS Easter Egg Hunt
Year 6 Open Classrooms
Year 2 Open Classrooms
Mid-year Reports for Reception to Year 5
Spring Festival – invited choir
Parent Consultations for Reception to Year 5
KS2 Speakers' Cup Final
KS1 Speakers' Cup Final
School closes for Easter holiday
Year 4 PACCAR
Y6 Hemel Snow Dome
Y6 PACCAR Trip
Class Group Photographs
Reception trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Y3 Kew Gardens
Y5 Young Mariners Visit
Y1 Woburn Trip